



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 25, 2007

H.R. 658

Natural Resources Protection Cooperation Agreement Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 23, 2007*

H.R. 658 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to enter into cooperative agreements with nonfederal partners to protect natural resources inside and outside of units of the National Park System. Currently, the agency may only execute such agreements for resource protection on nonfederal property if specifically authorized by the Congress to do so. Potential partners would include federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners.

CBO estimates that funding cooperative agreements on nonfederal land would add a few million dollars to the NPS operating budget of around \$1.7 billion annually. The NPS has identified over 60 park units that could benefit from projects carried out under cooperative agreements, but CBO expects that few such projects would cost more than \$50,000. Typical projects could involve weed control on state or private property outside park boundaries, fence construction on shared borders, or joint surveys of local wetlands or habitat. In all cases, spending under cooperative agreements would depend on the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 658 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 658 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any participation by nonfederal partners under cooperative agreements would be voluntary.

On February 7, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 241, the Natural Resources Protection Cooperation Agreement Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 31, 2007. S. 241 and H.R. 658 are very similar, and the cost estimates for the two bills are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.